



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®
Portland District

Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter

July 2007

A newsletter keeping you informed about upcoming meetings and providing updates as the Corps continues Celilo Village redevelopment.

Celilo Falls long served as a trade center, sacred fishing ground and gathering place for the Northwest Indian tribes. When The Dalles Dam was constructed, the falls were flooded. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided a new location near the original falls, where about 50 people live in Celilo Village. Inadequate maintenance, as well as sanitary and water systems, caused public health and safety concerns to village residents.

To resolve these problems, the Tribes requested the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to rebuild the village under the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites Project. Congress authorized the reconstruction of the village in March 2004, and the Corps expects construction to be completed by 2009.

Residents move into temporary homes

On July 9 residents began moving into the temporary homes. The moves will continue through July 23. Susan Hill from the Corps Real Estate office will be onsite throughout July to help organize the moves and act as the point of contact. Additionally, the Corps has hired a 24-hour security firm to be in the village.

Corps project manager George Miller said that in the week prior to the moves, the new water, sewer and electrical systems were checked to ensure they worked properly. On July 2 and July 3, Cooper Zietz Engineers held workshops to show residents where the shut off valves are located, how the heating and air conditioning systems work, as well as to explain features of the appliances, which will be moved with the residents into the permanent homes.

Because the Corps owns the temporary homes, it will administer any needed warranty work. The temporary housing area has fenced storage for large items; Hill is also arranging for a storage facility in The Dalles for residents.

Construction: Phase II

The Corps expects to award the construction contract for Phase II by mid-July, Miller said. Construction crews will build components (foundation, walls, etc.) of the new permanent homes three units at a time. Work should begin by September and the contract stipulates a completion time of April-May 2008. Constructing the BIA administration and classroom building, installing the landscaping and removing the temporary houses will take place in 2009.



Temporary homes now occupied by Celilo residents

Home allocation

The BIA allocated homes to people who were permanent, year-round residents from 1998 to 2004. With the upcoming demolition of the existing homes, those people who did not meet residency requirements must move from the village. They have asked for help. The Corps and the BIA staffs have decided to meet to address those un-permitted residents. Miller said the Corps and BIA will need assistance from the tribes to help these individuals.

Funding and the limited size of the parcel owned here by the Yakama, the Umatilla, and the Warm Springs, early on made it impossible to provide a home for all who had ties to Celilo.

Wy-Am Board chairman Antone Minthorn asked BIA superintendent at Warm Springs Paul Young to bring the BIA's home allocations report to the July board meeting. The board will study it and make recommendations.

Corps says good-bye to Portland District tribal liaison



Louie Pit thanks Barbara Creel for her work as tribal liaison

Barbara Creel, the Portland District's tribal liaison, announced that she is returning to her native New Mexico. Creel joined the Corps in May 2006 from the Office of Federal Public Defender in Portland, Ore.

As tribal liaison, Creel provided guidance to the District's leaders and helped foster a positive relationship between the tribes and the Corps of Engineers.

"Working with representatives from the Pacific Northwest tribes has been an honor," Creel said. "With some very significant events occurring in the past year, a good working relationship between the District and the tribes was critical." Creel was involved in day-to-day relationship building as well as coordinating Corps activities for Lewis and Clark events and the 50th commemoration of the flooding of Celilo Falls earlier this year.

Creel, an attorney, accepted a teaching position with the University of New Mexico School of Law. "My daughter and I love the Pacific Northwest; it has been very nurturing to us. We both will miss the people and the beautiful scenery," Creel said. "But New Mexico is where our family is. As hard as it is to leave such wonderful friends, the Land of Enchantment beckons to us again; we hope our return will lead us to even greater adventures."

Presentation to Tribal Councils

Wy-Am Board chairman Antone Minthorn and George Miller will be going to Yakama, Warm Springs, and Umatilla Tribal Councils to present Celilo redevelopment progress.

Wy-Am Board Members

Celilo Village: Bobby Begay, Delilah Heemsah
CTUIR: Antone Minthorn, Leo Stuart
CTWS: Ron Suppah, Reuben Henry
YIN: Ray James, Sam Jim, Sr.

638 Contract for operations and maintenance

The BIA contract is being revised based on comments received on the draft version, Young said. He hopes it will ready to bring to the July Wy-Am Board meeting for the board's review, changes, and approval. Following that, each of the three tribes must pass a resolution approving the contract.

The entity that will eventually get the contract must be a legal entity, and have financial systems in place. The contract will be administered out of the BIA's regional office.

Confluence Project

Maya Lin has developed a preliminary design for the art installation at Celilo Park.

Jane Jacobsen, Confluence Project executive director, presented Lin's scale model to the Wy-Am board at their June meeting. The design is a walkway, gradually arched, starting on land and ending high over the Columbia River. Along the walkway will be panels describing geology, the people, the falls, a Lewis and Clark quote and testimony from those who opposed the dam. When the seven Confluence projects are completed in 2009, the closing ceremony will be held at Celilo.

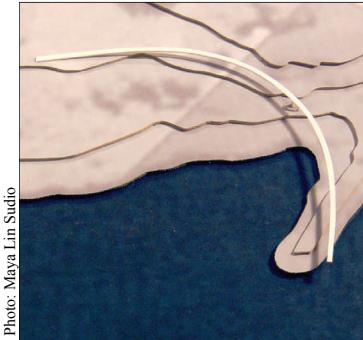


Photo: Maya Lin Studio

Maya Lin's design for Celilo site

The Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter is published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, to keep residents and other interested members of the public informed of the Celilo Village redevelopment.

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Portland District Commander: Col. Thomas O'Donovan

Project Manager: George Miller

Newsletter writer and designer: Susan Hess

Next Wy-Am Board meeting

Thursday, July 26, 2007, 10 a.m.

Celilo Village Longhouse, Elders Dining Hall

- BIA report re: basis of home allocations
- BIA presents 638 contract
- Award Phase II contract
- Moves to temporary homes

The Wy-Am Board invites Celilo Village residents to attend meetings, participate in the process and provide comments.